

Downtown Lexington Management District
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, September 2, 2020
Zoom Telephone Conference

Present Board Members: Clay Angelucci, Thomas Petit, Vice Mayor Steve Kay, Jim Frazier, Liza Betz, Councilmember Mark Swanson, Scott Davidson, Stan Harvey, Bryanna Carroll, Kevin Atkins, Dougie Allen, Taunya Phillips, Juan Castro, Mary Quinn Ramer

Advisory Board Members: Beverly Fortune

Other Persons Present: Ethan Howard (DLP), Laura Farnsworth (DLP), Terry Sweeney (DLP), Taylor McDonald (DLP) Harrison Stiles (DLP), David Warren (Block-By-Block), Jomo Thompson (Property Owner) Chris Toutant (Parks & Recreation), Kate Savage (Arts Connect).

The meeting opened at 8:30am.

Jim Frazier introduced two new Board members, Taunya Phillips and Juan Castro.

Jim Frazier welcomed the board and opened the meeting. There were two items for approval on the consent agenda:

1. Approval of the minutes from the July 8 meeting. There was a motion by Kevin Atkins to approve, and a second by Thomas Pettit. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Approval of the Financial Statements. Jim Frazier noted that the income is slightly down due to several factors: COVID recovery grants, art projects, and the fact that the PVA is delayed sending out the tax bills for the year due to COVID. Frazier anticipates that funding will begin returning to DLMD in the end of the year vs. the usual time of October. There was a discussion regarding payments to LexArts for two separate projects (HorseMaina and Raising the Bronze Ceiling). Kevin Atkins recommended that, moving forward, there is a memo added to the income/expense category to avoid confusion over why payments are made. There was a motion by Thomas Pettit to approve, and a second by Councilmember Mark Swanson. The motion passed unanimously.

Property Improvement and Reopening & Recovery Grant Update

Ethan Howard updated the board the 33 applications total for approximately \$79,223 of the \$80,000 allocated by the board. Uses include PPE, outdoor dining tables, inventory restock, and more. It leverages over \$200,000 of reopening expenses, and Ethan anticipates that on the low end. The Grant program has been refunded for the next year, and a press release has been sent. Application continue to be submitted, and Ethan anticipates more applications in the fall.

Jake Gibbs Plaque Update

Ethan Howard updated the board that we continue to scout locations and the permitting process with the City officials. Once the location is confirmed, DLP will order the plaque and arrange to have it installed. Looking for a spot near Alfalfa's in the sidewalk as a tribute to Jake Gibbs.

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Public Art Update

Kate Savage has installed 10 pieces of art in the gallery at Triangle Center. She added additional lighting as well. She is referring to this space as the "Window's Gallery." She is working with Betty Spain at Bella Rose to spruce up her installation in the space as well. The October installation will include horse painting in anticipation of the Breeders' Cup.

DLP Update

Terry Sweeney updated the Board on the Short Street working group. With weekly calls, DLP has been hosting merchants to address some of the cleanliness issues, coordinating police and parks staff, and doing collaborative marketing with the businesses. Additional Sherriff Deputies in the area have also been appreciated by both the merchants and patrons. Those deputies have made arrests and responded to drug overdoses in the Fifth Third Bank Pavilion area. David Warren informed the Board that the safety ambassador hours have been extended to combat bad behavior as well. Dougie Allen noted that the bad behaviors he had seen around his bar have declined as bars have had to modify their hours. He suggested DLMD put together a training to teach bar/restaurant staff to learn more about how to protect their patrons. Ethan Howard noted that some business owners have the ability to add lighting with funds from the Property Improvement Grant Program.

Harrison Stiles informed the Board about two new DLP marketing programs: DowntownLEX Together Presented by Central Bank and Wear to Show You Care mask program. DowntownLEX Together is a customer rewards program that encourages shopping throughout downtown with weekly gift card winners and a cash "grand prize." DLP is receiving around 50 receipts each week. We're also working with Humana to sponsor Wear to Show You Care, which encourages safe behavior in downtown, including wearing masks in common spaces. Promotions include window clings, and prizes. Also, DLP is partnering with Windstream for the #LocallyLexington campaign, which includes a new downtown mural, and features on what makes downtown businesses unique.

Laura Farnsworth provided an update regarding the DLP/DLMD Annual Meeting and State of Downtown events have been tentatively scheduled for September. Barring any COVID upswings, these events are scheduled for limited in-person presentation at The Kentucky Theatre, with a broadcast over social media and/or Zoom.

On Street Report

David Warren noted that his staff has sanitized 204 blockfaces in July to over 2,000 in August. They continue to sanitize frequently used spaces like door handles, parking meters, etc. They are also maintaining Triangle Park, and trash pickup is necessary. A highlight for the Ambassadors was that the MLK viaduct was pressure washed on both sides, removing black grime. Jim Frazier noted that he continues to get positive feedback from all over, and wanted to note that the Ambassadors continue to do excellent work and are a friendly presence in downtown.

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Issues Not on the Agenda

Jim Frazier reminded the board of the following officers: James Frazier, Chair, Liza Betz, Vice-Chair, Mary Quinn Ramer, Treasurer, and Clay Angelucci is the Secretary.

Public Forum

No public comment was entered.

The next meeting of the Downtown Lexington Management District will be held on Wednesday, November 4.

With the boards work complete, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15am.